MEMORANDUM

April 15, 1964

TO: Mr. J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

FROM: Albert E. Jenner, Jr.

RE: Ruth Hyde Paine Personal Papers and Correspondence.

Three metal file cases, containing personal correspondence and other papers of Ruth Hyde Paine, were delivered to the Commission under date of January 23, 1964 by the FBI with covering letter of that date to you from Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director. The three file cases had originally been seized by the Dallas Police Department at the home of Mrs. Paine in Irving, Texas and returned to her on January 15, 1964. She in turn delivered the file cases and contents to the FBI, Dallas office with a request that all material not found to have a bearing on the Oswald matter be returned to her in due course. Mr. Hoover advised that due to the voluminous nature of the material and the fact the materials had been examined by S.A. C. Clements of the FBI Dallas office, no copies of the file box contents had been made. Mr. Hoover concluded his letter with the request that the material be returned to the FBI whenever the Commission had completed its use thereof.

During her testimony before the Commission, Mrs. Paine repeated her request for the return of the materials and the Commission granted that request.

Prior to examining Mrs. Paine before the Commission, I studied each of the many documents in the three metal file cases. The cases were identified as Commission Exhibits 457, 458 and 459. None of the contents was introduced in evidence.

The contents consist in the main of:

a. Personal correspondence between Mrs. Paine (before and after her marriage to Michael Paine) and members of her and her husband's family, various and sundry friends and acquaintances, school officials and personnel (Universities and Colleges she attended) and Society of Friends (Quaker Church) officials and personnel.

b. Personal journals, diaries, memoranda and notes written or prepared by Mrs. Paine before and after her marriage, recounting her

personal activities and experiences, her reactions and hopes with respect to these experiences, her philosophies on life, her ambitions and disappointments, her personal hopes and comments respecting various members of her family and their problems, her efforts to assist the members of her family and their efforts to assist her (mother, father, sister and brother), as well as various friends with personal sundry problems and attainment of objectives and hopes, her activities in and promotion of Friends (Quaker) and activities, meetings, societies, committees and groups covering a span over some years (but particularly in this connection, the years 1950 through 1959 when she was most active and interested in the work of various Friends groups).

c. Miscellaneous materials she assembled and retained for use in her pursuit of group leadership activities, her studies as a University undergraduate and as a post graduate student, and her participation as a mother in community affairs in and about Irving, Texas, together with copies of various monographs, themes, etc. she submitted in the normal course of her attendance at Antioch College at Yellow Springs, Ohio, as an Education major.

The above described documents span the period 1946 to 1963. In 1946 Mrs. Paine (then Ruth Avery Hyde) was a high school student in Columbus, Ohio. It was at this period of her life that she became interested and active in Young Friends groups and activities. She continued in that work thereafter and through her college days and up to the time of her marriage to Michael Paine in December 1957. Her activities lessened somewhat thereafter, particularly with respect to Young Friends groups. It was during this period she became interested in the study of theRussian language, initially to facilitate her participation in Young Friends work and objectives, but in due course thereafter, this became intellectual interest coupled with the desire ultimately to teach the Russian language. The documents rather fully disclose Mrs. Paine's character, activities and interests throughout 1946 - 1963 period. I found nothing in them indicating any connection or interest on her part with or in communist, leftist or subversive groups or ideologies. In fact, the contrary is true.

There is no document or folder among the materials relative to or involving either of the Oswalds. The files appear to be, and I believe are, complete and intact as of the time of their seizure by the Dallas City Police and thereafter their delivery by Mrs. Paine to the FBI. I should add here that there was correspondence between Mrs. Paine and Marina Oswald. None of that correspondence was kept in the three file cases. We obtained all of the correspondence between Mrs. Paine and Marina Oswald, as well as Mrs. Paine's drafts of several of her letters to Marina. I am confident that through originals of Mrs. Paine's letters obtained from Marina, originals of Marina's letters to Mrs. Paine and Mrs. Paine's drafts of her letters to Marina which Mrs. Paine then rewrote in final form, we have all of the correspondence that passed between Marina and Mrs. Paine, including correspondence

subsequent to November 22, 1963. All of that which was in the remotest degree relevant to the Commission's scope of inquiry, was adduced before the Commission and admitted into evidence.

I should also add, in questioning Mrs. Paine before the Commission and in her two subsequent depositions, I had the entire contents of the three file cases very much in mind. Mrs. Paine's responses were consistent with such of those materials as were relevant to our inquiries.

Since, as indicated above, the contents of the metal file boxes are in a very great part highly personal in nature, and since we no longer have need or use for any of the documents, I recommend that the file cases and their contents be returned to the FBI and Mr. Hoover be advised that they may be returned to Mrs. Paine.

I transmit to you herewith a covering letter to Mr. Hoover, as well as copies of earlier correspondence between yourself and Mr. Hoover on the subject.

Attachs.

Jenner/jv/4-15-64
CC: Jenner chron file
Mr. Willens